



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vietnamvetschapter1.org
JANUARY 2021



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING JAN. 13, 2021

This was the first Chapter 1 meeting held on Zoom, a result of the pandemic. As a consequence, Michael Murphy from Aldie, Va., and Kerry O'Hara from Shrewsbury were able to join us. Also attending were Andy Megrath, president; Tim Lonergan, vice president; Richard Reed, treasurer; and Jack Crowther, secretary. The latter four are members of the Board of Directors. As is customary, a nominal meeting of the board took place, with no action taken.



A screen shot shows the Jan. 13 Zoom meeting of Chapter 1.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Richard Reed reported that the chapter had a total of \$46,393.08 in all our accounts. He noted that Tomasi's bar in Fair Haven, source of most of Chapter 1's income through the sale of ripoff tickets, remains closed due to the pandemic. The report was approved unanimously.

Andy Megrath noted he had purchased the DVD of the Ken Burns and Lynn Novick series, "The Vietnam War," for the chapter, and it will be available in the chapter's offices to borrow. The 10-part documentary runs 18 hours.

Andy reported on the Governor's Veterans Advisory Council meeting, which took place online earlier in the day. Gov. Scott was present and expressed continued support for exempting veterans retirement pay from the Vermont income tax. Adjoining states New Hampshire, New York and Massachusetts provide the exemption, resulting in military retirees moving out of Vermont for the tax benefit. As a member of the council, Andy is also continuing to push to remove veterans disability pay from the "household income" section of the Vermont tax return. Household income figures into Vermont's homestead tax exemption. Including disability pay in household income therefore reduces the tax break that a resident may be eligible for.

Andy also reported on the VVA State Council meeting the night before. A grant from the national VVA supports a service officer program. Service officers assist veterans seeking VA benefits. However, the grants require matching contributions from VVA chapters in the state. One chapter gave \$1,000 and one has given \$150 so far, Andy said.

Richard Reed, Chapter 1 treasurer, does service officer work pro bono, and another person in Bennington County is paid for his work. Richard moved to have the chapter contribute \$1,000 as matching money to support the program. Seconded by Tim Lonergan. Passed unanimously.



Chapter 1's Joe Lynch of Rutland is shown at work on the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial site in the spring of 2000.

Jack Crowther and Bill Ellwood have continued their work of archiving Chapter 1 materials to preserve the chapter's legacy when the chapter no longer exists.

A discussion is continuing at the VVA national organization as to whether VVA should shut down when its ranks die out (the so-called "last man standing" option) or continue on as a veterans organization serving those who came after Vietnam. Support exists for both options, Andy noted.

As reported in the Chapter 1 newsletter of last June 30 and the VVA Veteran's March/April 2020 issue, the future of the organization will be dealt with in the form of Resolution GA-21 at the 2021 Convention, scheduled for Aug. 10 to 14 in Greensboro, N.C.

In a sad note, Chapter 1 lost one of its longtime members and active supporters, Joe Lynch, last fall. We apologize for the oversight in not reporting his death in the November newsletter. Joe was a retired Postal Service worker. He served in the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam and received a Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE BY ZOOM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, AT 5 P.M.

Here is the information you need to join using the Zoom app:

Topic: VVA Chapter 1

Time: Mar 10, 2021 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/89838861605?pwd=bXRad2R0eGlUOTJiS0VhRkFodXJnQT09>

Meeting ID: 898 3886 1605

Passcode: 0fq9ka

A BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL PRECEDE THE REGULAR MEETING.



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vietnamvetschapter1.org

MARCH 2021



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING MARCH 10, 2021

At our second Zoom meeting, attendees included Andy Megrath, president; Tim Lonergan, vice president; Richard Reed, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary; Dick Doyle and Bill Ellwood, directors; and members Kerry O'Hara, Carl Baldwin and Michael Murphy. Thanks to the convenience of Zoom, Bill was able to be present while in Florida, Michael attended from Virginia, and Carl took part from New Mexico. The others, all from Vermont, avoided the need to travel. Later on we discussed the possibility of continuing the Zoom format when we return to in-person meetings.

A nominal meeting of the Board of Directors was held; no business was transacted.



Not to let the pandemic interrupt normal rituals, President Andy Megrath leads the Pledge of Allegiance at the March Chapter 1 Zoom meeting.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Richard Reed reported that the chapter had a total of \$45,235.60 in all our accounts, as of March 10. He noted that we have only received one check in ripoff ticket income since the pandemic started a year ago. Tomasi's bar in Fair Haven, which sells the tickets and is the source of most of Chapter 1's income, has been closed. As a result of that situation and large donations to the Stafford Technical School Scholarship program and the Rutland City Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, our cash on hand dropped from \$104,565 last year at this time. "The well is not being replenished," Richard noted. Andy and Richard expressed the hope that Tomasi's would be able to open soon, for their sake as well as the chapter's. The report was approved unanimously.

Andy Megrath noted that Beth Higgins, who was heavily involved with Chapter 1 activities with her husband Bill in earlier years (late 1980s and the 1990s) expressed an interest in getting involved again with the chapter. Sadly, Bill Higgins passed away last May, as noted in our June 2020 newsletter. Beth and Bill served in the Color Guard and Board of Directors, and Beth was secretary and newsletter editor. Andy asked that the chapter pay for an associate membership for Beth. Richard Reed made the motion, seconded by Tim Lonergan. Passed unanimously.

Andy reported again on the Governor's Veterans Advisory Council. A current priority in terms of legislation is getting military pension checks to be exempt from the state income tax. "We're having real problems," Andy said, noting the measure is before the House Ways and Means Committee, possibly stuck there. As reported in the January newsletter, Andy is also continuing to push legislation to remove veterans disability pay from the "household income" section of the Vermont tax return. The measure would benefit those with 100 percent disability.

Also on the legislative front, Andy reported, is a bill put forward to require quarterly reports on ripoff ("break-open") ticket sales. Andy has written the legislative sponsor to point out the importance of that revenue to the chapter for such initiatives, mentioned above, as the Stafford scholarships and the Rutland City fiduciary fund for maintenance of our memorial. The bill is H0176, introduced by Rep. Maida Townsend of South Burlington. It would end the current exemption of fraternal and veterans organizations from filing quarterly reports on the ticket sales. The sales themselves could continue.

Andy has nearly completed copying a number of the chapter's VHS video tapes onto video disks using equipment supplied by Bill Ellwood. The videos include a variety of material, including Chapter 1 activities. Andy also reported that he has shredded old chapter membership lists, which contain addresses and phone numbers that should be kept private.

Richard Doyle asked how those attending stood on COVID shots. Everyone had received at least one shot and several had gotten both.

Jack Crowther reported on his and Bill Ellwood's progress archiving Chapter 1 materials and records in anticipation of the day when Chapter 1 closes its doors. Beth Higgins has recently offered to take part in the work. The scanning of materials is largely completed. Jack said the main remaining task he sees is organizing all the scanned files. As reported in our November newsletter, the digitized records include 185 photos, 363 newsletters, and 87 newspaper articles. The material also includes our charter and various commendations and thank-yous.

Besides working with Jack, Bill Ellwood is leading an effort to compile photos and memories of chapter members about their military service. To that end, we have set up an email box, rutlandvvaarchives AT gmail.com. (Use the @ symbol where it says AT.) Members who wish to share photos or memories, including written or recorded material, can send them to that address.

The question arose as to whether to return to in-person meetings when members have been vaccinated. Bill Ellwood suggested that if we could get internet service at the VFW, where our offices are, we could actually have a combined in-person and virtual meeting. Andy offered to contact Comcast, the local cable provider, to see what might be possible. He'll also look into whether the VFW might already have wifi service and whether something might be done at a local restaurant with a meeting room.

Finally, it was noted that the Chapter 1 meeting with election of officers happens in April. Customarily, current officers and members of the Board of Directors are nominated for re-election, with the opportunity for newly interested members to volunteer to serve, sometimes in replacement of those who have dropped out. Jack Crowther chairs the nomination committee and will offer the current slate at the April meeting. Current officers and board members include: Andy Megrath, president; Tim Lonergan, vice president; Richard Reed, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary; and Bill Ellwood, Richard Doyle, Bill Whitney, Frank Wetherby, Jim Ficken and

George Henry, directors. Anyone not on the list who is interested in serving should notify Jack at his email, jack_cr2 AT yahoo.com, or an officer or director.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE BY ZOOM WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, AT 5 P.M.

Here is the information you need to join using the Zoom app:

Topic: VVA Chapter 1 Annual Meeting

Time: Apr 14, 2021 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/83160561491?pwd=Tno1T293TXh6SnRDTWVXRUFQjNwdz09>

Meeting ID: 831 6056 1491

Passcode: Bv8nDk



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

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APRIL 2021



MINUTES OF CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 14, 2021

At our third Zoom meeting, attendees included Andy Megrath, president; Tim Lonergan, vice president; Richard Reed, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary; Dick Doyle, director; and member Cliff Adams.

A nominal meeting of the Board of Directors was held; no business was transacted.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Richard Reed reported that the chapter had a total of \$44,639.19 in all our accounts, as of April 14. "Compared to last month, we're actually in really good shape," Richard said. "We haven't spent a lot of money. On the other hand, we haven't had a whole lot coming in. None."

Due to the pandemic and the temporary closing of Tomasi's bar in Fair Haven, he noted, we have no income from break-open tickets, our main income source. In contact with the owners, however, Richard said the bar is hoping to open in June. "They're optimistic," Richard said, nothing that Gov. Scott's guidelines were a "moving target."

"I have my fingers crossed for them, if not for us," Richard said. They're (the owners of Tomasi's, Shaun and Danielle Tomasi) are good people and they deserve to have a good business." Based on a year ago, the chapter has "58 percent less money in the till." The decline is due to both the drop-off in ticket sales and expenditures during the year, especially grants to the Stafford Technical School Scholarship program and the Rutland City Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

This being our annual meeting, Andy Megrath turned the meeting to Jack Crowther, nomination committee chair, for election of officers and directors.

As officers, Jack nominated the current slate, consisting of Andy Megrath, president; Tim Lonergan, vice president; Richard Reed, treasurer; and Jack Crowther, secretary. No one else had expressed interest in these offices. The slate was seconded by Dick Doyle. Elected unanimously.

Jack then went over the list of current directors, noting their attendance records since January 2020. In discussion about recruiting newly active members to the Board of Directors, Tim Lonergan asked about continuing meetings via Zoom, which has drawn in a few new participants. Andy Megrath said he has inquired and found that the VFW building, where Chapter 1 offices are located, does have wifi service, which would permit use of Zoom. Andy said he would test out the service to determine whether we could use it for a hybrid in-person / Zoom meeting. Tim pointed out that that the hybrid option would allow interested members to serve as directors without having to attend in person.

“I don’t have a problem continuing with them,” Andy said of the Zoom meetings, “because it seems like we get more people here on Zoom than we were actually getting in the office over at the VFW.”

“I think the main thing is to get people, really encourage and help people, to get on Zoom,” Richard Reed said, noting that there continue to be a lot of meetings on Zoom.

Approaching the 40-minute deadline for our free Zoom meeting, Jack nominated the existing slate of directors — Bill Ellwood, Richard Doyle, Bill Whitney, Frank Wetherby, Jim Ficken and George Henry. Seconded by Cliff Adams. Passed unanimously. The understanding is that Andy will check with the less active directors to see if they are still interested in serving or wish to step down. If resignations produce vacancies, we can then fill them with those who have shown recent interest.

Richard Doyle congratulated the newly elected officers, noting, “Some of them served, not in years but in decades, a reference to Andy and Jack. Dick himself fits in that category in his service as director.

Jack then turned the meeting over to the re-elected president Andy Megrath.

Jack then reported on plans to remove the plantings around the marble sculpture at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial and replace them with crushed red slate. As he has reported previously, the plantings — initially wooly thyme and more recently dragon’s blood sedum — have proven difficult to maintain, with Jack doing most of that work. Jack has talked with Bob Peterson, Rutland City Parks director, who will be able to help with the work, probably during the period of April 27-29. When Jack gets a firm date, he’ll notify people by email to have a Chapter 1 group to help with the work.

Richard Reed reported that the Vermont VVA’s service officer program was currently “hanging on by their teeth.” Consequently he recommended that the chapter donate “\$1,000 to help

support the program while other sources of revenue are being generated.” He made a motion to that effect, seconded by Tim Lonergan. Passed unanimously.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE BY ZOOM WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, AT 5 P.M.

Here is the information you need to join using the Zoom app:

Topic: Chapter 1, Vietnam Veterans of America

Time: May 12, 2021 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84553825616?pwd=ajFXU2kyc0pub1BISjUwaVpBVTZJZz09>

Meeting ID: 845 5382 5616

Passcode: M236jJ



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

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MAY 2021



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING MAY 12, 2021

At our fourth Zoom meeting, attendees included Tim Lonergan, vice president; Richard Reed, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary; and member Carl Baldwin.

A nominal meeting of the Board of Directors was held; no business was transacted.

Tim Lonergan presided in the absence of President Andy Megrath.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Richard Reed reported that the chapter had a total of \$44,754.18 in all our accounts. While the balance is a healthy one, Richard has noted recently that the chapter's income has largely dried up due to the pandemic and the closing of Tomasi's bar in Fair Haven. Tomasi's sells scratch-off tickets and contributes the income to Chapter 1, providing our main source of income.



"I talked with Danielle [Tomasi] and Tomasi's are planning hopefully to open June 1," Richard reported. The treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

Chapter 1 Vice President Tim Lonergan (left), Treasurer Richard Reed, and Nate Denno and Zach Phelps from the Rutland Recreation and Parks Department pitched in April 27 to place red crushed slate around the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial's central marble carving. (Photo by Jack Crowther, who also helped.)

Under old business, Jack Crowther thanked Tim and Richard for their help in placing crushed red slate around the sculpture at the Rutland County

Vietnam Veterans Memorial. With the help of Zach Phelps and Nate Denno from the Rutland City Recreation and Parks Department, the work was accomplished April 27. Since its dedication in 2000, the memorial has had live plants around the central marble carving, but maintaining them in a presentable state has always been a challenge. The red slate should be much easier to maintain.

Jack Crowther gave an update on the work he and Bill Ellwood have done preserving Chapter 1 records for posterity against the day when the chapter will no longer exist. He said he and Bill have scanned “nine hundred and some” documents. Most recently, with the scanning largely completed, Jack reorganized the scans into what seemed like a logical group of files and subfiles. “I think we’re close to being done,” Jack said. “What remains is probably to get together with the (Rutland) Historical Society, which has put a lot of our stuff on line on their website and . . . Archive.com.” The task will be to see if Jack and Bill’s latest organizational efforts needs to be carried over into what the Historical Society presents. In any event, a thumb drive containing all the chapter’s scanned records will be left with the Historical Society for access by the public. Jack said the Historical Society had been very helpful in sharing the Chapter 1 records with the public.

On a final item, Jack asked Tim, who is involved with the Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports non-profit, if the group would be making another request for support. Chapter 1 has donated to the organization, which plans special events for veterans. Tim replied that he was waiting to see what events for veterans would be scheduled and what the state of Chapter 1’s finances were before making another request. He said he would like to put in a request, noting that Vermont Adaptive had been “hammered just like everybody else” in the pandemic. “A lot of the fundraising projects that we had just didn’t go,” Tim said.

Following the meeting, in consultation with President Andy Megrath, the next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 8, as indicated below:

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Crowther, Secretary

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE BY ZOOM WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 8, AT 5 P.M.

Here is the information you need to join using the Zoom app:

Topic: VVA Chapter 1 Meeting

Time: Sep 8, 2021 05:00 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us05web.zoom.us/j/81459135701?](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/81459135701?pwd=akZTN3NaMklZVFBIMFNEOU1IRXQ4Zz09)
[pwd=akZTN3NaMklZVFBIMFNEOU1IRXQ4Zz09](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/81459135701?pwd=akZTN3NaMklZVFBIMFNEOU1IRXQ4Zz09)

Meeting ID: 814 5913 5701

Passcode: 836RhR



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

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SEPTEMBER 2021



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

Sept. 8, 2021

At our fifth Zoom meeting, attendees included Andy Megrath, president; Tim Lonergan, vice president; Richard Reed, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary; and Dick Doyle and Bill Ellwood, directors.

A nominal meeting of the Board of Directors was held; no business was transacted.



Alicia Caputo, a second-year engineering student at Stafford Technical Center, received a \$2,000 scholarship from the Chapter 1 Scholarship, established to encourage Stafford graduating students to continue their educations. Candidates must be the child or grandchild of someone who served in the U.S. military. Alicia was also selected as a Presidential Scholar in Career and Technical Education.

The meeting began with President Andy Megrath discussing a family health matter that will curtail some of his time available for chapter business. However, he wishes to continue to serve. Members expressed their support and willingness to assist Andy with the web site and newsletter distribution.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Richard Reed reported the chapter has \$55,090.34 in all its accounts, as of the end of August. That compares with \$44,754.18 reported at our May meeting. The difference, he explained is due to the reopening of Tomasi's bar in Fair Haven, which sells scratch-off tickets. Revenue from the sale of the tickets has long constituted the main and ample source of Chapter 1 funding, and Chapter 1 is grateful for the reopening the bar, not only for its benefit to the chapter but also as the livelihood for the generous

Tomasis, Shaun and Danielle, who are Chapter 1 associate members.

Net ticket income for the current fiscal year is \$15,815, Richard reported. He noted that the ticket supplier has changed the scratch-off games and that the cost of two boxes of tickets has increased from \$480 to \$508.

Jack Crowther brought up the No One Left Behind charity, which is devoted to assisting those Afghans who assisted the U.S. forces during the 20-year conflict just concluded with the withdrawal of U.S. troops. Jack suggested a \$200 donation, but Dick Doyle proposed \$500, putting it in the form of a motion. Seconded by Richard Reed. Approved unanimously.

The VVA State Council will meet Sept. 25 in Rutland at the Chapter 1 offices at the VFW, 15 Wales St., beginning at 11 a.m. Any interested member may attend.

Bill Ellwood reported that the archiving of Chapter 1 records is about complete. Hundreds of newsletters, photos, news articles, and other documents have been scanned into digital files or simply collected when the digital files already existed.

However, Bill and Jack Crowther are hoping to collect and preserve any pictures and information members have of their experiences in Vietnam, along with any updates on themselves they wish to have preserved. Please send any material of this nature to the following email address: rutlandvvaarchives@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Crowther, secretary

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE BY ZOOM WEDNESDAY, NOV. 10, AT 5 P.M.

Here is the information you need to join using the Zoom app:

Topic: VVA Chapter 1 Meeting

Time: Nov 10, 2021 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84602273853?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84602273853?pwd=V2FKRWdwWTNWU2E3S05xNjFFK1ZUZz09)
[pwd=V2FKRWdwWTNWU2E3S05xNjFFK1ZUZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84602273853?pwd=V2FKRWdwWTNWU2E3S05xNjFFK1ZUZz09)

Meeting ID: 846 0227 3853

Passcode: 497299



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

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NOVEMBER 2021



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING NOV. 10, 2021

BIG NEWS: At the VVA's annual convention Nov. 2-7 in Greensboro, N.C., the delegates approved the following resolution: "Vietnam Veterans of America, its Officers and Board members [are] prohibited from changing the organization's name and/or creating any new veterans organization to replace our current one; thus making us a 'last person standing organization.'" Michael Keating, editor of *The Veteran*, VVA's magazine reported the result to Jack Crowther, Chapter 1 secretary, by telephone. Jack called Keating wondering about the results of the convention, which, as of this writing, had not been posted on the vva.org website. The other big news from the convention was that Jack McManus unseated John Rowan as VVA president. McManus was nominated from the floor of the convention. Rowan favored continuing VVA under a new name, opening membership to younger veterans from after the Vietnam era. Sentiment of the membership has seemed to favor ending VVA rather than changing it to keep it going.



Chapter 1 member Mike Klopchin of Clarendon sent us this photo with the caption, "Ammo dump blowing up at Dong Ha base. Loudest noise I ever heard. This was a harassment round that the VC got lucky with!"

At Chapter 1's sixth Zoom meeting, attendees included Andy Megrath, president; Tim Lonergan, vice president; Richard Reed, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary; Bill Ellwood, director; and Michael Murphy from Virginia.

A nominal meeting of the Board of Directors was held; no business was transacted.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Richard Reed reported the chapter has \$66,597.20 in all its accounts. He noted that a lot had changed financially of late. "The bottom line is between September and October we have started getting money again," he said. "The break-open ticket sales have really gone through the roof." The tickets are sold by Tomasi's bar in Fair Haven and have been the main source of the chapter's income. The bar closed during the pandemic, interrupting that income source, but it reopened around June. In the fiscal year that ended in February, ticket income was about \$20,000, but already this fiscal year we've taken in more than \$29,000. From that latter figure is deducted about \$8,000 in the cost of the tickets.

The report was approved unanimously.

President Andy Megrath expressed his appreciation for extra Chapter 1 duties undertaken by director Bill Ellwood, web page maintenance; vice president Tim Lonergan, mailing of newsletters; Jack Crowther, emailing

of newsletters; and Richard Reed, work on chapter finances, as Andy copes with a family health issue.

Andy noted that he would be serving as host at Applebee's Grill and Bar the next day during their Veterans Day free meal for veterans.

Andy noted the Rutland Fire Department "has been taking good care of the flag" at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial, lowering it to half-staff when necessary.

Bill Ellwood reported that on the website he had updated the list of the Board of Directors and posted the latest newsletters. He noted that the web site still lists our meeting site as the VFW, and asked that it be updated to reflect our current practice of meeting by Zoom. Jack Crowther will supply some wording. Bill asked and was given permission to add a link on the website to the Rutland Historical Society, which is hosting the chapter's digital archive of photos and documents. Andy noted that there are a number of links on the website to other sites, but as a rule he declines the requests, not being sure of their legitimacy or appropriateness. Members expressed support.



A recently installed marker at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Rutland commemorates the volunteer efforts of Wendy Hill of the Rutland Garden Club, who helped tend the flowers and plantings at the memorial for many years.

Bill Ellwood noted that after several invitations to the membership he finally was sent a photo (see above) for our digital archiving project. The invitation is still good. Members are invited to send photos, information on their experiences, and/or updates on their current situations to rutlandvvaarchives@gmail.com.

A discussion followed about future meetings and whether to continue using the Zoom format versus in-person meetings or a combination of the two. The consensus seemed to be to continue meeting by Zoom, unless there was a reason to hold an in-person session, in which case there could still be a Zoom option.

Tim Lonergan made an appeal for financial support for Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports, which provides recreational opportunities for Vermonters with disabilities, including veterans (with and without disabilities). Like other organizations, Vermont Adaptive has been unable to conduct its usual fundraising over the last two years, due to the pandemic. Tim requested support from Chapter 1 in the amount of \$2,000, an increase from last year's \$1,000. "We're really in dire need," he said. He noted that in the current year Vermont Adaptive served 163 veterans, including 58 from southern Vermont. Activities included rock climbing, cycling on rail trails, mountain biking, and a new program, equine therapy, to name a few. A coordinator of programs who is based in the Sugarbush area has bought property in the Rutland area and will be spending time here regularly. That should help local outreach. Tim's request was treated as a motion for the chapter to donate \$2,000. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

In other business, Jack Crowther referred to a letter from VFW Post 648 indicating the post is "in the process of selling our building." Since Chapter 1 rents space in the building, we could be affected. The letter said the VFW post "will remain at 15 Wales St. (location of the building) for the foreseeable future," noting the sale is an attempt "to stabilize the Post's economic viability for years to come."

Andy said he would contact the VFW commander, Hugh Roberts, to find out the effect on Chapter 1's rental. Richard Reed said our rent was paid up but he has never seen a lease. "A paper lease would be a real handy thing if you're going to be dealing with a building that's going to be sold," he said.

Further effort will be made to insure that the late Bill Higgins, a life member of Chapter 1 who died May 24, 2020, is listed among deceased members in the "Taps" column of The Veteran, the regular magazine of Vietnam Veterans of America.

Richard Reed noted that the VVA State Council will meet Dec. 18 at the Chapter 1 offices at the VFW, 15 Wales St., at 11 a.m. Chapter 1 will endeavor to offer a Zoom option for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Crowther, secretary

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE BY ZOOM WEDNESDAY, JAN. 12, AT 5 P.M.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83453683725?pwd=U2dac2wweEt2anJiZWZjWmlpOEpzUT09>

Meeting ID: 834 5368 3725

Passcode: 095273